



**JOINT LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND
PUBLIC SAFETY
September 15, 2016
Room 643 of the Legislative Office Building**

The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety met on Thursday, September 15, 2016 at 1:00 PM. The meeting was held in Room 643 of the Legislative Office Building. Members present were: Representatives Boles, Burr, Daughtry, Faircloth, G. Graham, Hurley, Jackson, Jordan, McNeill, Speciale, Stevens, Turner; Senators Bingham, Daniel, Newton, Randleman and Sanderson.

The following staff members were present: Debbie Holder, Committee Clerk; Kristine Leggett, John Poteat, Mark White, Fiscal Research Division; Susan Sitze, Legislative Analysis Staff; Emily Johnson, Bill Drafting; Bart Goodson, Speaker's Office; Dylan Watts, Senate Staff

Chair Hurley presided and called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone at 1:05 PM. She introduced the Sergeant at Arms Staff present, Young Bae, Jim Moran, David Leighton, Jim Hamilton and Sham Patel. She recognized Commissioner David Guice, with the Department of Public Safety and the new member, Senator Norm Sanders. Chair Hurley introduced Senator Randleman and asked her if she had any comments. She did not have any comments.

Representative Daughtry made a motion to approve the April, 2016 minutes, seconded by Senator Bingham. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.

Chair Hurley recognized Susan Sitze with the Legislative Analysis Staff for an update on Gang activity. Ms. Sitze gave a PowerPoint presentation. There were questions from Representatives Speciale, Faircloth and Stevens. Kristine Leggett with the Fiscal Research Staff made reference to the Committee's website information from March, on page 6, followed by additional question from Senator Daniel. (Attachment 1)

Lorin Freeman, District Attorney for District 10 in Wake County was recognized to address the issue of gangs. She indicated people are hard to convict, as no one is willing to risk their life, endangerment of the families, etc. for testifying, as there is no witness protection provided. She recommended the General Assembly look for solutions, as in other states and to continue to work the Department of Public Safety. There were questions from Representatives Stevens, Jackson, Faircloth and McNeill. Representative Stevens indicated the Courts Commission would be glad to help work with the subcommittee. It was determined the Gang Statutes be looked at and rewritten. Chair Hurley appointed Rep. McNeill to chair a Gang Subcommittee with the following members: Representatives Jackson, Speciale, Faircloth, G. Graham and Senator



Sanderson. The subcommittee will work with the Rep. Sarah Stevens and the Courts Commission, along with the staff to study the enhancement laws.

Detective W. C. "Chuck" Hastings with the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department was recognized for a PowerPoint presentation on gang activity. There were questions from Representatives Faircloth, G. Graham, Boles, McNeill, Hurley and Senator Bingham. Chair Hurley asked for additional research into witness protection in order for individuals to testify without worry of retaliation to be completed and brought back to the Committee. Senator Newton was recognized for an additional question regarding the data base used. (Attachment 2)

George Solomon, Director of Prisons, Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice, Department of Public Safety was recognized for a Behavioral Health Update PowerPoint presentation. Questions were asked from Representatives Faircloth, Turner, Jordan, Hurley and Boles. (Attachment 3)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 without the PowerPoint presentation from Anne Precythe, Director of community Corrections, division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice, Department of Public Safety. This presentation will be placed on the agenda for the October meeting.

Chair Pat Hurley, Presiding

Deborah Holder, Committee Clerk